

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

March 4, 2003

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-03-0480-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

The ____ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to ____ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

____ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a ____ physician reviewer who is board certified in neurosurgery which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The ____ physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ____ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

Clinical History

This 46 year old male sustained a work related injury on ____ when he experienced neck pain following an accident with an overhead crane. He underwent a myelogram and post myelogram CT scan on 10/30/01. The patient was diagnosed with cervical pain syndrome and degenerative disc disease. The patient has been treated with physical therapy, medications, epidural steroid injections, and facet blocks. The patient continues to complain of neck pain and stiffness and the treating physician has recommended that the patient undergo an anterior cervical fusion.

Requested Service(s)

Anterior cervical fusion

Decision

It is determined that the anterior cervical fusion is medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The medical record documentation including clinical presentation, refractoriness to conservative treatment, cervical myelogram, post myelogram CT scan, cervical MRI and cervical spine series as well as neurological and orthopedic examination, substantiate the diagnosis of multilevel/multifactorial cervical spondylosis with nerve root compression and symptoms refractory to conservative treatment. The proposed surgical intervention is the appropriate treatment for this patient. Therefore, the anterior cervical fusion is medically necessary.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a TWCC decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10** (10) days of your receipt of this decision (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5 (c)).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 40669, Austin, Texas, 78704-0012. **A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.**

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute (Commission Rule 133.308 (t)(2)).

Sincerely,

cc: Rosalinda Lopez, Program Administrator, Medical Review Division, TWCC

<p>In accordance with Commission Rule 102.4 (h), I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 4th day of March 2003.</p>
